Use of the CENTAUR and wisdom systems in the assessment and management of animal and animal product import risks into Great Britain

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Abstract:

CENTAUR (Certification of Exports and Assessment of Underlying Risk) is an integrated electronic system of databases that includes a library of risks associated with the importation of animals and animal products.

Electronic messages relating to consignments imported from other EU Member States and third countries are received via the EU messaging system, ANIMO, and sent to the local veterinary unit of destination of each consignment. Using the CENTAUR system a risk message is assigned to each consignment notified via ANIMO. This informs the local veterinary unit of any disease risk associated with import of the animal or animal product and gives instructions on the action required to manage this risk. The system enables consignments to be tracked if they move from their original premises of destination and the results of veterinary checks on consignments to be recorded.

Risks are determined by the central veterinary authority on the basis of qualitative risk assessment. This process uses information from various sources, including reports from OIE and the EU Commission, which since 2002 is stored on a disease monitoring and mapping system, named Wisdom (World Information System for Disease Outbreak Monitoring and Mapping).

Examples are provided of the use of the system in the case of recent epizootic disease outbreaks within Europe and in other countries from which GB imports animals and products. The presentation also describes the effect on UK systems of the European Commission’s proposed new system named TRACES. The TRACES system is intended to replace ANIMO in 2004.